

**Comments of
UIL Holdings Corporation
Re:
Raised House Bill 6397**

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENERGY INDEPENDENT
ECONOMY IN CONNECTICUT**

**Before the Commerce Committee
Legislative Office Building
February 24, 2011**

UIL Holdings Corporation (UIL) and its affiliated companies, Southern Connecticut Gas Company (SCG) and Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation (CNG) submit these comments in support of the provisions contained in **Raised House Bill 6397, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENERGY INDEPENDENT ECONOMY IN CONNECTICUT.**

The proposed legislation stimulates the further development and advancement of natural gas vehicle (NGV) use in the State of Connecticut. Increased use of natural gas vehicles will provide improvement in the State's environment air quality by reducing emissions and increase energy security and independence for America by the reduction of energy imports.

Natural gas vehicles utilize proven technology:

- There are about 110,000 NGVs on U.S. roads today and more than 12 million worldwide.
- In the United States, about 30 different manufacturers produce 100 models of light, medium and heavy-duty vehicles and engines.
- Natural gas costs, on average, one-third less than conventional gasoline at the pump. The U.S. Energy Information Agency reports that natural gas, on average, costs 42 percent less than diesel fuel on an energy equivalent basis and is expected to cost 50 percent less by 2035.
- In 2009, about 318,600 million cubic feet of natural gas was used for vehicle fuel, according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency.

While the United States imports more than 60 percent of the oil it uses, over 95 percent of the natural gas used in the U.S. was produced in North America. Every gallon equivalent of natural gas used in vehicles is one less gallon of petroleum that has to be imported.

Exhaust emissions from NGVs are generally much lower than those from gasoline-powered vehicles. Dedicated NGVs produce little or no evaporative emissions during fueling and use. In gasoline and diesel vehicles, evaporative and fueling emissions account for significant portion of the emission associated with operating a vehicle.

By replacing in-use medium and heavy duty diesel vehicles with new natural gas vehicles Connecticut will see the most significant reductions in emissions since medium and heavy duty trucks put out much more emissions than light duty vehicles.

Utilizing natural gas powered vehicles is a proven technology choice that will help Connecticut meet and exceed ever-stricter emissions requirements and is an effective strategy to reduce the country's dependence of foreign oil.

If the Committee has any question regarding UIL Holdings Corporation's comments on this bill, please contact UIL's Sr. Director of Government Relations, Carlos Vázquez at 203-521-2455 at your convenience.